

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

The claims have been amended hereby to be more descriptive of the present invention as shown in the drawings. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that upon the present amendments to the claims that all of the claim features are shown in the drawings. For example, the pair of engaging pieces provided on a jack side are shown in Fig. 5 at 25. In addition, the rubber sleeve 22 having been wrapped around the plug shell 21 and inserted into the plug cover 16 is shown in Fig. 4 by the reference numeral 22 coming from the projecting portion of sleeve 22.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, it is respectfully submitted that all positively recited elements are clearly shown in the drawings.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Avener.

The present invention relates to a plug attaching mechanism in which a connecting terminal 20 is locked into a jack hole 27. The connecting terminal is arranged in a plug shell 21 and has a rubber sleeve 22 wrapped around it. A plug

cover then covers the plug shell and sleeve combination and by reason of the elasticity of the rubber sleeve the plug cover is retained on the shell and sleeve combination. A pair of projecting portions 23 are formed on the plug cover and each projecting portion has an L-shaped engagement groove 26, as shown in Fig. 4. In assembling the connecting terminal and jack the projecting portions 23 fit into concave portions 24 and 24 on the attachment plate of the jack and engaging pieces 25 engage the L-shaped engagement grooves 26 formed on the projecting portions. The assembly can be locked by rotating the plug cover 16.

The claims have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention, and specifically, that the generally simple nature of the present invention permits a positive locking to occur between the plug cover and the jack portion with a mechanical bias being provided by the projecting portion of the sleeve from the plug cover.

Avener relates to a device for protecting electrical outlets from children. Avener provides a cylindrical split cap 14 that surrounds the conventional electrical plug 18. Note that there is no rubber sleeve surrounding the plug 18. Thus, Avener does not anticipate the presently claimed invention, because there is no sleeve surrounding the plug, which would correspond to the plug shown 21 of the presently claimed

invention. In Avener, a locking tab 26 is provided on the cylindrical split cap and also two locking stubs 30 are provided on a mating portion 24 of the cylindrical split cap. The locking cap 26 fits into a tab slot 28 and the locking stubs 30 fit into locking slots 32. The locking stub slots extend laterally within the raised collars 12 to the bottom portion thereof and at right angles along the bottom edge of the raised collars 12. A tab indentation 36 is provided with a locking slot 34, so that when the cylindrical split cap is inserted into the collar, the cylindrical split cap is rotated clockwise and the locking tab slips into locking slot 34. In order to release the plug from the receptacle, the locking tab 26 must be depressed so that it slides below the locking slot 34 and the cylindrical split cap can be rotated for removal.

It would be appreciated that Avener provides a quite complex system of tabs and slots and the like, unlike the system of the present invention, which provides only the pair of projecting portions 23 having the L-shaped engagement grooves 26 that fit into the concave portions 24 and 24 of the jack and the engaging pieces 25 of the attachment plate that cooperate with the L-shaped engagement grooves.

It is respectfully submitted that Avener fails to anticipate the positively claimed structure of the present invention.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that a plug attaching mechanism, as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims, is neither shown nor suggested in the cited reference.

The references cited as of interest have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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